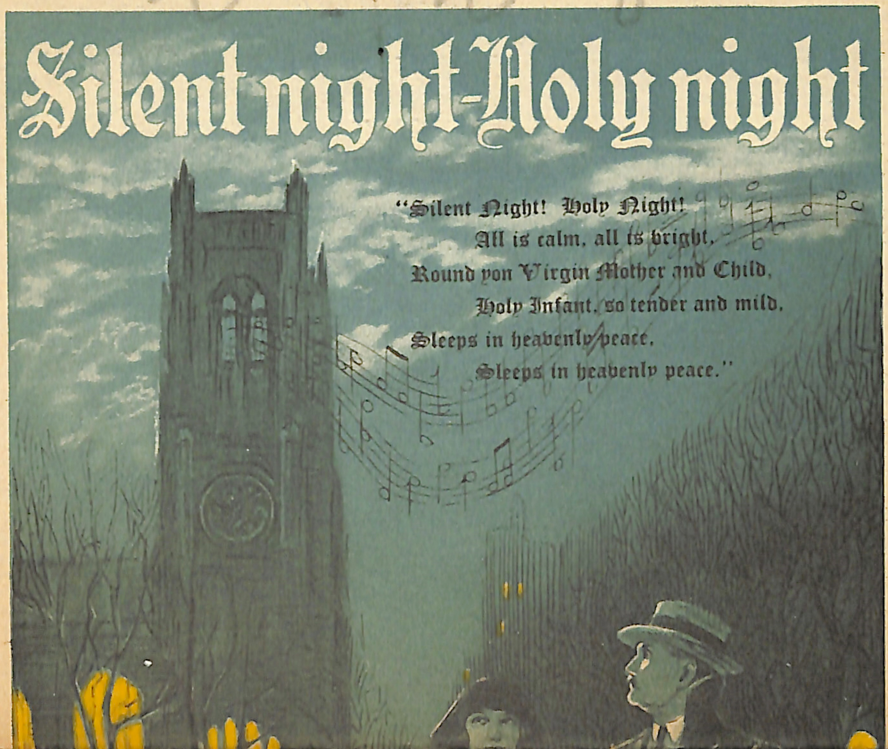
Silent night-Holy night



Jas.3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocricy."

INTRO. Practical James' picture of God's wise man. Contrasted with the Worldly Wiseman, who is smart and clever, but not always reliable.

We will take a scene from Nature for our interpretation of the text.

Snow-capped mt., a stream of water, fruit-bearing trees.

I. Truly Wiseman first Pure.

1. His life from above.

Fruit-bearing trees depend largely upon sunshine and water- all from above.

The wiseman of the text is hidden with X in God.

Subject to and thrives upon God's universal Law and Love.

2. First pure- pure as the snow.

First demand for holy living is cleanliness.

Pure mind, pure heart, pure soul. An unsullied character.

General Grant quartered with his men in Va. One effered to tell a story, remarking, "I think there are no ladies present." General Grant replied, "No, but there are gentlemen present"

3. out

II. But of this purity flows the ~~river~~ river, flowing thru the valley quietly, peaceably, gently.

1. What a contrast to Mr. Worldly Wiseman! Wishing to show his cleverness, he is not peaceable but polemical. He likes to criticise sharply and stir things up. He readily engages in controversy for the sake of battle.

2. But the wiseman of God seeks his truth in an entirely different way. He seeks it in peace and quietness, for truth is shy and retiring, and must be sought with reverent step.

II. ~~M~~. No cave-man ~~stuff~~ method in dealing with the Truth.
Seeking truth much like seeking a bird upon its nest. Delicacy of appriach necessary.

III. Then Gentle.
1. Elsewhere this word translated "moderation" and "Patience". The three words together explain Mathew Arnold's phrase, "Sweet Reasonableness".
Mr. Worldly Wiseman knows nothing about "sweet reasonableness". He is guided by his prejudices and his self-compacent understanding of things.
Luther's story of the two goats that met each other on a narrow ~~path~~ bridge over deep water. They could not pass each other, nor could they go back. Nor did they dare to fight each other. Finally one lay down and the other passed over him.
The goads showed a sweet reasonableness to a degree that even nations fail to show.

IV. "Easy to be Entreated".
Not elsewhere found in N T. An extra feature to the one just descrived.
1. Readily sees new truth.

2. Accepts the truth as given by others.

3. In rising differences meets others more than half way. Not stubborn.
Ill. The river flows swiftest in midstream. Along the banks it lingers and fits into the twists and turns of the shore. It eddies around an obstacle.
Here then are the dispositions that flow from the snow in the river- peacefulness, sweet reasonableness without stubborn resistance

V. "Full of mercy and good fruits."

Fruits with which to meet human needs.
Consideration of others and service work.
Noble compassion answering the cry of the distressed.
God's wiseman , with love andpurity redeems mankind.

VI. The Negative Statement of Text- Without Partiality and without Hypocricy.

Impartial service, kind to all alike.

Not two-caced, sincere. Plays no part. He acts just like he really is. He is what he appears to be.

TEXT: But the wisdom that isfrom above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocricy."